



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 October 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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## Daily Overview

- Reuters reports that a new link between the eastern and western U.S. power grids opened this week. (See item [3](#))
- GovExec.com reports that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a new strategic plan that establishes objectives and criteria for the aviation industry. (See item [10](#))
- A Southern California Association of Governments report stated that Southern California needs to spend as much as \$216 billion on freeways, mass transit and other transportation projects through the next 25 years. (See item [11](#))
- U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge announced the approval and publication of maritime industry security rules which are designed to significantly improve protection of America's ports, waterways, and ships from a terrorist attack. (See item [15](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *October 23, Associated Press* — Tennessee nuclear plant reopens. The Watts Bar Nuclear Plant near Knoxville, TN, has resumed operation – making it the only commercial nuclear station in the United States producing both electricity for homes and factories,

**and isotopes for bombs.** The single-reactor station, owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), was listed at 44 percent of full power and ascending Wednesday, October 22, said John Moulton, a TVA spokesman. Since early September, TVA workers have been installing tritium-producing rods in the reactor while it was being refueled. The plant went back on line Monday, October 20. **Tritium, a hydrogen isotope that enhances the explosive force of thermonuclear weapons, is required for every warhead in the U.S. arsenal. The government hasn't made tritium since 1988 when its production reactors at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina were closed for operational and safety problems.**

Source: <http://nashuatelegraph.com/Main.asp?SectionID=25&SubSectionID=379&ArticleID=91803>

2. *October 23, Reuters* — **LNG site upgrades planned.** Natural gas company KeySpan Corp. on Thursday, October 23, said it has formed a partnership with another company to look into upgrading a KeySpan storage facility in Providence, RI. **Keyspan said that the facility, which receives truck deliveries and was last upgraded in 2000, could be ready to receive marine shipments by 2005, pending approvals. The improvements would allow the gas to be transported via the Algonquin Pipeline G-system.** In conjunction with the project, the companies would also enhance the Port of Providence infrastructure, including making available two, \$6 million tugboats that could be used by other companies in the port.  
Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/031023/utilities\\_keyspan\\_lng\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/031023/utilities_keyspan_lng_1.html)
3. *October 22, Reuters* — **Sixth link opened between U.S. East and West grids.** A rare new link between the eastern and western U.S. power grids opened this week in Rapid City, SD, utility sources said on Wednesday, October 22. **The Rapid City tie will be operated by a federal agency, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). The 200-megawatt bi-directional tie entered commercial operation on Tuesday, October 21, and became only the sixth link between the massive eastern North American power grid and its smaller but still vast counterpart in the western United States and Canada.** The tie converts electricity from AC to DC and then back to AC as the phases of electricity in the two power grids are slightly out of sync, said WAPA spokesperson LaVerne Kyriss. Continental North America is divided into three main power grids with a third grid serving most of Texas.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=3669556>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Chemical Sector**

4. *October 23, Times-Picayune* — **Dozens ill from chemical leak. More than forty people from Plaquemines Parish, LA, sought medical attention on Wednesday evening after a discharge of hydrogen sulfide from a chemical plant drifted into their neighborhood, apparently making them ill, authorities said.** Chief Thomas Stone of the St. Bernard Parish Fire Department went to the hospital to survey the situation, and said none of the patients appeared to be in serious condition. Men, women and children came to the hospital complaining of nausea, dizziness, vomiting, and eye irritation, he said. **The accidental chemical release occurred about 6 p.m. at the Chevron plant in Belle Chasse, setting off a siren, said Major John Marie of the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office.** A cloud of the released chemical drifted across the Mississippi River into the area just south of the

Scarsdale–Belle Chasse ferry, Marie said. Major Charles Guey of the Sheriff's Office said the cause of the leak was an apparent failure of one of the units at the plant. Marie said the release was quickly contained and he did not know of anyone at the plant who became ill.

Source: [http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/index.ssf?/base/news-0/10668947\\_1394050.xml](http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/index.ssf?/base/news-0/10668947_1394050.xml)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

5. *October 23, Aerospace Daily* — **USAF still hopes to boost F/A–22 buy.** The U.S. Air Force still is trying to find ways to increase its planned purchase of F/A–22 Raptors, a top service official said Wednesday, October 22. **General John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, told reporters that the service continues to have a requirement for 381 Lockheed Martin–built F/A–22s. Although the Air Force has estimated it can afford only 276 Raptors under current budget constraints, it also has indicated it hopes to find efficiencies so it can get as close to the higher number as possible.** "We like 381 as the number that would flesh out our forces," Jumper said. The Air Force took delivery of its first operational F/A–22 in September and hopes to achieve an initial operational capability (IOC) by the end of 2005.

Source: [http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel\\_aerospacedaily\\_story.jsp?id=news/hop10233.xml](http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/hop10233.xml)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

6. *October 23, Agence France–Presse* — **Saudis block funds for terrorists. The Saudi government has banned fund–raising in schools and through the media in fresh moves to regulate the work of charities, which some nations accuse of funding terrorism, the Asharq Al–Awsat newspaper reported on Wednesday, October 22.** This follows a government ban on fund–raising in markets and shopping malls as part of a series of measures aimed at 'monitoring the flow of money and preventing funds from reaching activities described as terrorist', it said. The Al–Eqtisadiyah reported that the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Religious Endowments had banned Islamic preaching bodies from running advertisements to solicit donations. Since the Sept 11, 2001 attacks, the United States has urged oil–rich Gulf Arab states to regulate charity operations and make sure that funds do not end up in terrorists' hands. **The U.S. believes some of the money is channeled to terrorist groups such as Hamas and al Qaeda. Another portion ends up funding religious schools that preach the extremist anti–Western strain of Islam, Wahhabism.** Some of the schools, the U.S. argues, are breeding grounds for terrorists.

Source: <http://www.straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/world/story/0.4386.2160.83.00.html?>

7. *October 20, Associated Press* — **Minister sentenced in student–aid scheme.** A minister who gave seminars on how to cheat the government out of student aid was sentenced Monday to 41 months in federal prison. **Ozell Clifford Brazil of Los Angeles, CA, was accused of devising a scheme used by about 400 students that resulted in them obtaining over \$10 million in student aid, federal prosecutors said.** Investigators obtained detailed information on the fraud

from 22 students who received \$716,179 in grants and \$382,393 in loans. **Brazil gave seminars at local black churches and instructed teenagers how to cheat the student aid system by understating family income and by falsely claiming to be either orphans or wards of the court.** Along with the seminars and other advice, Brazil also wrote letters to college financial aid offices that falsely stated that particular students did not receive any financial support from their parents.

Source: <http://www.dailynews.com/Stories/0.1413,200~20954~1712390.00.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Transportation Sector**

8. *October 23, Reuters* — **El Al jet diverted in Canada after security threat. An Israeli airliner was diverted twice in Canada on Thursday, October 23, after an unspecified threat to the plane and to Canada's biggest airport, authorities said. The El Al jet was bound for Toronto from Tel Aviv and was forced to land first in Montreal, and then again in Hamilton to allow some passengers off.** "Sometime in flight, a threat was received," said Ken Mitchell, a spokesperson for Hamilton international airport. "The threat included the Toronto airport and the aircraft." He added, "We don't know the nature of the threat, we don't how it was transmitted or who received it. But the threat was taken seriously and the plane was originally diverted to Montreal." The jet then landed in Hamilton, an industrial town about 40 miles outside Toronto, on Thursday morning before continuing to Los Angeles, CA.

Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20031023/ts\\_nm/security\\_canada\\_elal\\_dc](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20031023/ts_nm/security_canada_elal_dc)

9. *October 23, Reuters* — **Blackout disrupts flights at Lagos airport. Flight operations at Nigeria's main airport in Lagos were disrupted on Thursday, October 23, because of power cuts that began when the country's electricity authority cut off supplies for non payment.** As passengers stepped off the first flights from Europe earlier on Thursday the electric lights at the state-owned Murtala Muhammed International Airport went out. Using beams from their mobile telephones, some passengers picked their way to immigration, where officers strained to read passports using flashlights and cigarette lighters. **National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) officials said the cash-strapped power supplier had begun cutting off customers who failed to pay their bills, and the airport authority was a repeat offender.** But NEPA said in a statement it restored power to the airport some five hours after the dawn disconnection after some part of the debt was paid. NEPA's managing director Joseph Makoju said the airport's later power problems were due to an internal problem which the terminal's engineers were struggling to rectify.

Source: [http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma\\_newsarticle1\\_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters\\_pma\\_2003\\_10\\_23\\_eng-reuters\\_pma\\_BLACKOUT-DISRUPTS-FLIGHTS-AT-LAGOS-AIRPORT&SMContentSet=0](http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_10_23_eng-reuters_pma_BLACKOUT-DISRUPTS-FLIGHTS-AT-LAGOS-AIRPORT&SMContentSet=0)

10. *October 22, GovExec.com* — **FAA issues five-year strategic plan.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a new strategic plan Wednesday, October 22, that establishes objectives and criteria for the aviation industry in the areas of safety, airport capacity, international cooperation, and organizational structure. **Within the next five years, the FAA will develop a national safety index to measure the risks and performance of the aviation**

system; implement a new navigation system for commercial aviation; and introduce unmanned aerial vehicles into the airways, according to highlights of the document, called **Flight Plan 2004–2008**. The FAA's budget will be tied to the plan starting in fiscal year 2005. **The FAA also issued a new rule Monday, October 20, that requires pilots and airports to reduce the amount of vertical separation between flying planes.** The rule is part of the strategic plan and reduces the minimum vertical separation between aircraft from 2,000 feet to 1,000 feet for all aircraft flying between altitudes of 29,000 feet to 41,000 feet. **The rule is expected to increase the routes and altitudes available to airports, allowing more efficient routings that will save time and fuel.** The FAA estimated the rule would generate \$5.3 billion in fuel savings through 2016.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1003/102203c1.htm>

11. *October 22, Long Beach Press Telegram (CA)* — **Transportation upgrade for Southern California.** Southern California needs to spend as much as \$216 billion on freeways, mass transit and other transportation projects through the next 25 years, according to a Southern California Association of Governments report released Wednesday, October 22. **The plan proposes solutions to handle the six million more people and three million new jobs that will come to the region by 2030. The plan calls for numerous major projects including an additional \$21 billion for highway improvements, including more car– pool lanes, a rail system to connect airports, and doubling Metrolink's capacity.** The plan also lays out a strategy for funding the \$216 billion in transportation improvements, which would require raising more than \$90 billion.

Source: <http://www.presstelegram.com/Stories/0.1413.204~21474~171699.3.00.html>

12. *October 22, CongressDaily* — **TSA reaffirms decision on German firearm supplier.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has reaffirmed its decision to have **German firearms manufacturer Heckler & Koch (H&K) supply as many as 9,600 .40–caliber handguns to U.S. commercial airline pilots who complete federal law enforcement training under the agency's guns–in–cockpits program.** A contract of three one–year options to supply H&K USP40 Compact Law Enforcement Model semiautomatic handguns was signed after the agency, under pressure from a U.S. representative, reevaluated all the bids it had received from firearms companies, especially those with manufacturing facilities in the United States. The maximum value of the contract is \$3.3 million, H&K officials said Tuesday, October 22. Congressional and industry sources said this week a "mitigating" factor for H&K was its timely announcement in August, during TSA's bid re–evaluation process, that it would build its first U.S. factory. The plant will be built on a 29–acre site in a Columbus, GA, technology park. Among its first products will be handguns for the TSA program. The U.S. facility also will produce assault rifles, machine guns, grenade launchers and small arms for U.S. military and police forces.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1003/102203cdam2.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

13. *October 23, NBC 4 Washington* — **Congressional hearing scheduled on postal safety.** Capitol Hill lawmakers will look at safety concerns Thursday of a postal facility closed



**due to anthrax contamination. The Curseen–Morris Processing Distribution Center has been closed since the 2001 anthrax attacks.** Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton of Washington, D.C., requested the hearing. She said lawmakers should find out whether further congressional action is needed to help prevent future acts of bioterrorism. Two anthrax–laced letters addressed to senators passed through the facility two years ago. And, two postal workers eventually died. The building was decontaminated earlier this year, and it could reopen before the year is over.

Source: <http://www.nbc4.com/news/2576156/detail.html>

14. *October 23, DM News* — **Trenton postal site to be fumigated. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) plans to begin fumigation of the Trenton Processing and Distribution Center this Friday. The facility in Hamilton Township, NJ, has been closed since October 18, 2001, after it was contaminated by anthrax spores released by letters processed there.** Since the facility's closure, the USPS has successfully decontaminated Washington, DC's Curseen–Morris Processing and Distribution Center, which was similarly contaminated by two of the letters that moved through the Trenton facility.

Source: [http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article\\_id=25365](http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=25365)

15. *October 23, U.S. Department of Homeland Security* — **Secretary Ridge announces significant steps in enhancing maritime security. U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge announced Thursday, October 23, approval and publication of the final maritime industry security rules which are designed to significantly improve protection of America's ports, waterways, and ships from a terrorist attack.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) developed the final rules with a team from the U.S. Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration, Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Maritime Administration. The maritime security requirements published by the Coast Guard in a final rule on October 22, 2003 replace temporary rules originally issued in July 2003. **The final rules effect significant changes in security practices within all segments of the maritime industry, including cruise ships, container ships, and offshore oil platforms.** The full text of the final rules can be found at

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov>.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/maritime>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Agriculture Sector**

16. *October 02, Iowa Ag Connection* — **Security measures taken to protect biotechnology. Agricultural biotechnology endeavors in Iowa generally have not been the targets of sabotage, industry officials and university researchers said, but companies have added security in recent years.** At Trans Ova Genetics in Sioux Center, officials are not taking any chances. Video cameras, which are monitored around the clock, are posted at the company's research headquarters. Similar precautions are taken at business and university research facilities around Iowa. Operations are monitored, and visitors are required to show identification and have an escort. Pioneer Hi–Bred International Inc. and Monsanto Co., two U.S. crop–seed companies, employ security measures to protect research operations, officials said. But neither company considers violence against those operations a big concern. **Open–air**

research plots and crop fields, however, are more difficult to monitor, experts said. The upper Midwest produces millions of acres of crops, and has dozens of agricultural research operations, including many that employ biotechnology. Fields where genetically engineered crops are grown typically are not identified, although biotech-based seed was planted this year on about 40 percent of U.S. corn acreage and 80 percent of the soybean acreage.

Source: [http://www.iowaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=832&yr=20\\_03](http://www.iowaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=832&yr=20_03)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Food Sector**

17. *October 23, United Press International* — **Bioterror rules may raise price of food. The food and beverage industry is warning that consumers might face price increases as companies institute new rules designed to protect the U.S. food supply from terrorism.** Food and Drug Administration Deputy Commissioner Lester M. Crawford said Tuesday that more regulation might be needed next year. "Any time you impose new regulations on an industry, that has the potential to increase prices," Tim Willard of the National Food Processors' Association said. "But it's too early to say whether they will in this case." **Under the rules, which go into effect on December 9, importers must register each of the 420,000 facilities in the U.S. and abroad that produce or handle food products destined for the United States. In addition, importers have to give advance word of the arrival, origin, and contents of food shipments at U.S. ports of entry.** Stephanie Childs, spokesperson for the Grocery Manufacturers of America, said companies already had built assumptions about the additional costs into their budgets for 2004 and said they would not be passed on to the public.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/business/20031022-092312-8705r.htm>

18. *October 23, Food and Drug Administration* — **Evaluating the safety of antimicrobial drugs to prevent resistant bacteria. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Thursday released a new guidance document that outlines a comprehensive approach to preventing antimicrobial resistance that may result from the use of antimicrobial drugs in animals. The guidance provides a process for assessing the likelihood that an antimicrobial drug used to treat an animal may cause an antimicrobial resistance problem in humans consuming products from that animal.** The pathway in the guidance document establishes a three-part system for determining an antimicrobial drug's potential risk to humans if used to treat food animals. Part One is the "release assessment," which determines the probability that resistant bacteria will be present in animals as a result of the use of the antimicrobial new drug. Part Two is the "exposure estimate," which gauges the likelihood that humans would ingest the resistant bacteria. Part Three is the "consequence assessment," which assesses the chances that human exposure to the resistant bacteria would result in adverse human health consequences. **If the assessments showed that the risks were significant, FDA could deny marketing authorization, thus preventing the use of the drug in food animals, or FDA could approve the drug, but place conditions on its use designed to ensure it would not pose a human health risk.**

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2003/NEW00964.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Water Sector

19. *October 23, Arizona Republic* — **Tucson will test water supply.** The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality revealed Tuesday that groundwater contamination has been found near a July 30 pipeline rupture. State officials said that drinking water supplies are safe, but they are demanding that Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, which owns the line, provide a remediation plan. **Tucson officials plan to begin testing the drinking water supply.** Tucson Water Director David Modeer said testing at monitoring stations downstream from the break should reveal whether the spill was bigger than reported or there was long-term leakage. "The latter is something we would not want to see, but if it has been leaking, we ought to be able to find it in our monitoring wells down gradient from where the leak was," he said. "If we don't find it there, then I think that would point to the fact it was more likely the result of more fuel being spilled than originally anticipated."

Source: [http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1023\\_pipelinefolo.html](http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1023_pipelinefolo.html)

[[Return to top](#)]

## Public Health Sector

20. *October 23, Houston Chronicle* — **Strained ERs flooded with common flu cases.** Flu victims and people with flulike symptoms are flooding Houston area emergency rooms, health experts said Wednesday, straining an already taxed system with cases better served with Tylenol and bed rest. Texas Children's has identified 85 flu cases in the past 10 days, an enormous leap over the typical flu season caseload of nine a week. Two children are in intensive care. At Ben Taub, which is part of the Harris County Hospital District, doctors are seeing 80 to 100 pediatric patients a day and 85 percent are flu cases, said a spokeswoman. Similarly, the volume at LBJ Hospital has doubled. "We're starting to see it in adults, but it's hitting kids stronger," said Dr. Ron Charles, director of emergency services at LBJ, which also is part of the hospital district.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/front/2174056>

21. *October 23, New York Times* — **Panel recommends limits on SARS testing.** A scientific advisory panel convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) Wednesday recommended against routine testing for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus unless a cluster of cases develops and all other infectious agents have been ruled out. The panel plans to soon publish a guideline for doctors and laboratories to follow to determine when to test for the SARS virus. If a laboratory does come up with a positive test result for SARS, it must send the specimens to a second laboratory that belongs to the WHO network for independent validation of the findings, said Dr. John MacKenzie, a microbiologist who organized the science panel's meeting. Unless there is such confirmation, the WHO will not list any country as SARS-infected, Dr. MacKenzie said. WHO said it recognized the risk that SARS might spread if tests were delayed. "We admit that we might well miss the first case or even the first cluster," Dr. MacKenzie said. **The panel, he said, is recommending limiting SARS testing for now largely because scientists do not have enough specimens of the serum portion of blood from patients who were infected during the epidemic earlier this**



**year.** The serum contains antibodies to the virus and is needed for purposes of scientific controls in diagnostic testing.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/23/health/23SARS.html>

22. *October 23, Reuters* — **West Nile outbreak hits turkey handlers. U.S. health officials said on Thursday they could not explain what caused a cluster of West Nile infections among workers at six turkey breeding farms in Wisconsin.** Ten of the turkey handlers, or about 20 percent of those tested at the farms earlier this year, were found to carry antibodies to the mosquito-borne virus, according to an investigation by Wisconsin health officials. The findings were published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **The high rate of West Nile exposure observed in this group of farm workers has led to suspicions that their infections were not caused by mosquito bites, the usual route of transmission for humans, birds, and animals.** A small number of Americans have contracted West Nile from blood transfusions. **Health officials in Wisconsin are focusing on a potential connection to exposure to turkey feces, though they admit they have no evidence that droppings caused the workers to become infected.** West Nile was detected in the feces of female turkeys tested at one of the farms, according to the study, which also noted that a high percentage of the same birds had been exposed to the virus.

Source: <http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=3678537&section=news>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Government Sector**

23. *October 23, U.S. Department of Homeland Security* — **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) employment investigation yields hundreds of arrests.** U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers arrested hundreds of illegal aliens at Wal-Mart stores in more than 20 U.S. states Thursday, October 23, as part of an ongoing investigation into the illegal employment of unauthorized workers in this country. **These arrests are part of ICE's ongoing efforts to ensure that U.S. companies do not employ individuals who are unauthorized to work in the United States.** Individuals who have violated U.S. Immigration laws by illegally entering and working in the United States are subject to arrest and removal from this country. Those arrested today will be put into removal proceedings by ICE and appear before a U.S. Immigration Judge.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=2035>

24. *October 22, Associated Press* — **Federal government proposes \$100 fee to cover foreign student tracking. The government plans to charge foreign students a \$100 fee to pay for a tracking system created to prevent possible terrorists from using student visas to enter the country,** Asa Hutchinson, undersecretary at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), said Wednesday, October 22. Hutchinson said **the one-time fee should generate more than \$30 million annually for the program, known as the Student and Exchange Visa Information Service (SEVIS).** Any foreigner enrolled in a school approved by department must register with the service to enter United States. Some 800,000 students enrolled at 8,000 schools are now in the system. "Whenever you look at who pays for it, there are no attractive alternatives. Either the taxpayers of America pay for it or you impose a fee on foreign students that come to

be educated in the United States," Hutchinson said. "The equities lean toward placing that responsibility on the foreign student." The charge would come in addition to the \$100 visa application fee and a visa issuance fee that is set according to a student's country of origin. **The department will collect public comment for a month on the fee proposal** and would like to put the fee in place in the spring.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0.2933.100941.00.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

25. *October 23, Federal Computer Week* — **DHS wants public safety communications technology.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) seeks ideas to develop technology that will allow more than 44,000 public safety agencies nationwide communicate with each other in an emergency. **In a request for information (RFI) released this week, Safecom program officials said they are looking for ways to create interoperable and wireless communications networks for public safety officers that include state and local agencies and more than 100 federal ones. Safecom is working with federal communications officials and public safety officials to develop better technologies for communications systems. But in its call for information, it is now looking for help from both the vendor and academic communities.** "Inadequate and unreliable wireless communications are serious issues plaguing public safety," the RFI said. "In many instances, agencies lack the technology necessary to perform their mission-critical duties. Such agencies are unable to share critical voice or data information in routine day-to-day operations, and in large-scale events." Communication was a major problem for public safety officers when terrorists attacked the Pentagon and World Trade Center on September 11, and first responders could not get in touch with each other.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1020/web-safecom-10-23-03.asp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

26. *October 23, The Lawrence Journal (Kansas)* — **Kansas Department of Health and Environment computers at 'high risk'.** The Kansas state agency in charge of protecting the public's health and safety is having trouble protecting its own computers and information system, according to an audit released Wednesday, October 22 by the Legislative Division of Post Audit. **Operations of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) "were at an extremely high risk of fraud, misuse or disruption," the auditors concluded.** KDHE is a large regulatory agency that collects records and information about Kansans. The agency is the leader for dealing with hazardous wastes, epidemics, immunizations and, most recently, the state's bioterrorism program. **Using a standard password-cracking software, auditors were able to determine more than 1,000 employee passwords, which is about 60 percent of the total, in three minutes.** Ninety percent of the passwords were cracked within 11 hours. During a lunch hour, auditors easily walked into empty offices where computers were logged on to the network and unlocked. The audit also revealed that **many agency computers were infected with computer viruses that could send files and passwords to computer**

addresses outside the agency, and some 200 computers had no anti-virus software installed. After meeting with auditors, KDHE officials "acted strongly and swiftly to address these problems," according to the audit report.

Source: <http://www.ljworld.com/section/stateregional/story/149509>

27. *October 23, eSecurity Planet* — **Senate committee approves P2P security bill.** The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved a bill mandating federal agencies to develop and implement security plans to protect their network systems from the risks posed by peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing on Wednesday, October 22. Earlier this month, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the same legislation. **Both the House and the Senate have already implemented security measures against P2P security threats** through both technical and non-technical means, including firewalls and employee training. **The Government Network Security Act of 2003 would give Executive Branch agencies six months to take similar steps.** The federal government uses and stores a wide variety of classified and sensitive information, including information vital to national security, defense, law enforcement, economic markets, public health, and the environment. Government computers also contain personal and financial information of U.S. citizens and businesses. Installation of P2P software on government computers can expose this sensitive information to the public. **The House Committee on Government Reform issued a staff report in May showing how through a "couple of simple searches" of the most popular P2P programs, personal information such as tax returns, medical records, and confidential legal documents and business files were found.**

Source: <http://www.esecurityplanet.com/trends/article.php/3097621>

28. *October 22, eWEEK* — **Carnegie Mellon lab tackles cyber-security.** Security, engineering and public policy experts at Carnegie Mellon University are joining together to form a new lab at the school dedicated to researching and developing new security technologies. **The new organization, known as the Carnegie Mellon CyLab, will include representatives from the school's engineering, computer science and public policy departments, as well as personnel from the CERT Coordination Center. The group will seek to promote collaboration between the government and the private sector.** CyLab's charter will differ significantly from that of CERT, which is charged with analyzing and responding to security threats and attacks. A quasi-public organization, CERT is partially funded by the federal government. **CyLab will also receive public money, but will concentrate on finding long-term solutions to pervasive security problems instead of looking at how to mitigate the latest attack on Internet Explorer, as CERT does.** The group's mission is essentially threefold: education; research and development; and response and prediction. In addition to offering bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in security-related disciplines, CyLab will also work to educate home users on the inherent dangers of the Internet and the steps they can take to combat those issues.

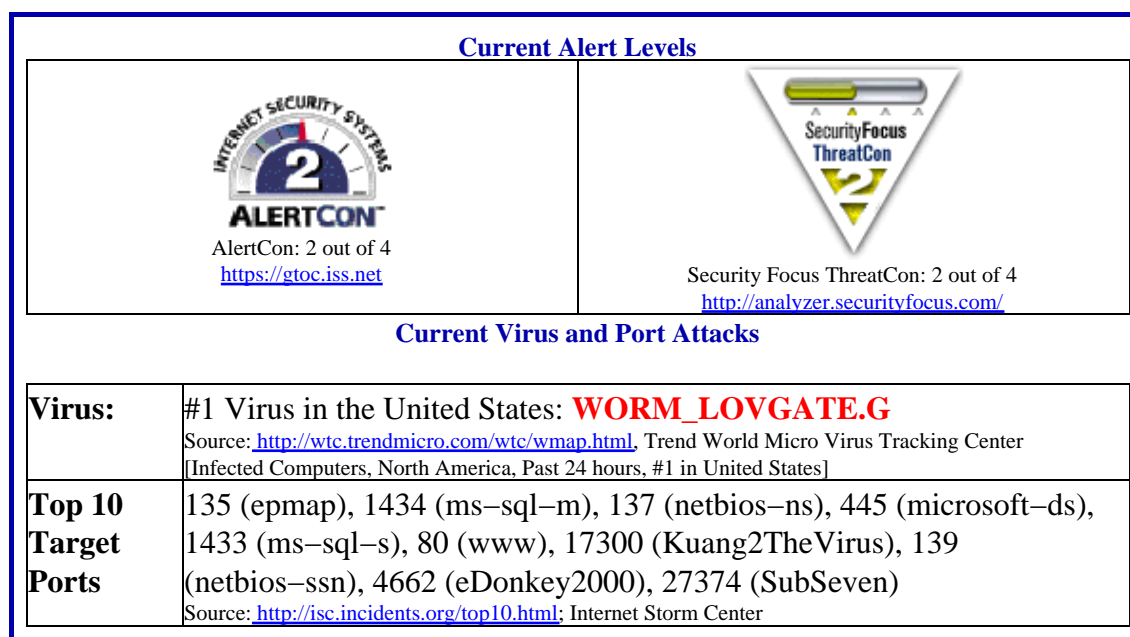
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.4149.1361399.00.asp>

29. *October 22, Reuters* — **Spam beginning to hurt e-mail use, report says.** Half of all Internet users say "spam" e-mail messages has made them less trusting of all e-mail in general, according to a report released Wednesday, October 22 by the Pew Internet and American Life Project. One in four say they now use e-mail less because of spam. The group's June survey of 1,400 Internet users found that most feel they can do little to block the billions of

unwanted pitches that arrive in their inboxes on a daily basis. **Spam now comprises roughly half of all e-mail messages, according to several estimates, costing businesses billions of dollars in wasted bandwidth and lost productivity.** Most respondents said they did not post their e-mail addresses to Web sites in an effort to keep off spammers' lists, and many said they used filters to block spam at work or home. But others admitted to behavior likely to perpetuate the problem. Some 7% said they had bought a product or service that was offered in an unsolicited e-mail, while one-third said they had clicked a link to get more information. Two-thirds said they had clicked a link to be removed from a spammer's e-mail list, an activity consumer advocates say is likely only to generate more spam.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/tech/webguide/internetlife/2003-10-22-spam-rot\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/webguide/internetlife/2003-10-22-spam-rot_x.htm)

### Internet Alert Dashboard



[\[Return to top\]](#)

## General Sector

30. *October 23, Washington Post* — **Washington Monument entry tunnel plan dies. The National Park Service has cancelled plans for an underground visitor's center at the Washington Monument because of public and congressional opposition, but will proceed with a project to replace concrete Jersey barriers with low stone walls set into a regraded landscape.** A wooden fence surrounding the site will remain for more than a year, officials said. The underground center had been pitched as a security enhancement that would allow the Park Service to screen visitors at a remote building connected to the monument by a 400-foot underground concourse. It won conceptual approval from a federal design panel last year, but preliminary construction work depended on funds in the Interior Department's appropriations bill for next year. Before the appropriations bill passed the Senate three weeks ago, a U.S. senator attached an amendment blocking funding for work on the underground center. Park Service officials said the amendment prompted the agency to reconsider the project. **Park**

Service officials on Wednesday, October 22, said they planned to maintain the current system of screening visitors at a temporary facility on the east side of the monument.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2945-2003Oct22.html>

31. *October 23, Associated Press* — **Russia opens airbase in Kyrgyzstan. Russian President Vladimir Putin, on Thursday, opened Russia's first new military base on foreign soil since the 1991 Soviet collapse.** Putin hailed the new base in Kyrgyzstan as a move aimed at strengthening security in volatile Central Asia, but it is widely seen as Moscow's response to the U.S. military presence in an area that Russia regards as its strategic backyard. **The new outpost is only 30 miles from a base used by U.S. troops.** Secular governments in Central Asia have been struggling in recent years with radical Islamic groups inspired by the proximity of Afghanistan, which was ruled by the hardline Taliban until it was ousted by U.S. led forces. Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have faced several incursions and bomb attacks by militants. Since December 2001, Kyrgyzstan has hosted hundreds of troops from the U.S. led anti-terror coalition as they support operations in nearby Afghanistan. Neighboring Uzbekistan is a base for more than 1,000 U.S. troops.

Source: <http://famulus.msnbc.com/FamulusIntl/ap10-23-121815.asp?reg=ASIA>

32. *October 22, U.S. Department of State* — **Travel Warning: Nepal.** The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to defer non-essential travel to Nepal. **Since the end of the ceasefire on August 27, Maoist rebel violence has increased and statements and leaflets have carried anti-American slogans.** There have been increased reports of threats against Americans, as well as intimidation, robbery and extortion of Americans and other foreigners by rebels, including on popular trekking routes. Interrupted telephone services to some trekking areas caused by rebel destruction of communications infrastructure could make it difficult to locate travelers or to arrange medical evacuations. **Rebel tactics include attacks on Nepalese Government facilities and commercial transport vehicles, indiscriminate bombings using improvised explosive devices, assassination attempts against Nepalese officials, and calls for localized or nationwide strikes ("bandhs").** The Nepalese Government from time to time institutes curfews for affected districts and police have set up roaming checkpoints in Kathmandu.

Source: [http://travel.state.gov/nepal\\_warning.html](http://travel.state.gov/nepal_warning.html)

[[Return to top](#)]

### DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

**DHS/IAIP Warnings** – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.



[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

### **DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions:	<a href="mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov">nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov</a> or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 703–883–6631
Subscription and Distribution Information	Send mail to <a href="mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov">nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov</a> or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 703–883–6631 for more information.

### **Contact DHS/IAIP**

To report any incidents or to request information from DHS/IAIP, contact the DHS/IAIP Watch at [nipc.watch@fbi.gov](mailto:nipc.watch@fbi.gov) or call 202–323–3204.

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